



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
VIA E-MAIL: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20530
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10 067,989	02 08 2002	Randy Dinkins	028750-219	9928

7590 03 07 2003

Teresa Stanek Rea
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

KUBELIK, ANNE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1638

DATE MAILED: 03 07 2003

C

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/067,989

Applicant(s)

DINKINS ET AL.

Examiner

Anne R. Kubelik

Art Unit

1638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-5, 8-11, 14-16, 28-29 and 32-33, drawn to a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein with the same function as the *Arabidopsis* MinE protein, a plant whose nuclear genome has been transformed with a gene encoding a protein with the same function as the *Arabidopsis* MinE protein, and a method of producing the plant, classified in class 800, subclass 298.
 - II. Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 28-31, drawn to a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein with the same function as the *Arabidopsis* MinD protein, a plant whose nuclear genome has been transformed with a gene encoding a protein with the same function as the *Arabidopsis* MinD protein, and a method of producing the plant, classified in class 800, subclass 298.
 - III. Claims 17-18 and 21-24, drawn to a method of transforming the chloroplast genome of a plant by transforming the nucleus with a gene encoding a protein with the same function as the *Arabidopsis* MinE protein and transforming the chloroplast with a gene of interest, and plants and chloroplasts thus transformed, classified in class 800, subclass 278.
 - IV. Claims 17-22, drawn to a method of transforming the chloroplast genome of a plant by transforming the nucleus with a gene encoding a protein with the same function as the *Arabidopsis* MinD protein and transforming the chloroplast with a gene of interest and plants and chloroplasts thus transformed, classified in class 800, subclass 278.

Art Unit: 1638

V. Claims 25-27, drawn to a method of selecting plants that are chloroplast transgenics but not nuclear transgenics, classified in class 800, subclass 260.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Groups I-V comprise independent and distinct inventions. The methods of each of groups I-V have different starting materials, different method steps, and different end products. Nucleotide sequences encoding different proteins are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute **independent and distinct** inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Thus methods using such different nucleotide sequences are independent and distinct inventions. Each sequence requires an independent search of the sequence databases. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141 et seq (see MPEP 803.04 and 2434).

Claims 1-5, 14 and 28-29 link(s) inventions I and II. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 1-5, 14 and 28-29.

Claims 17-18 and 21-22 link(s) inventions III and IV. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 17-18 and 21-22.

Upon the allowance of the linking claims, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claims depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claims will be entitled to examination in the instant

Art Unit: 1638

application. Applicant is advised that if any such claims depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claims is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, fields of search, and classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that for the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Sequence Rules

Art Unit: 1638

2. This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825.

Sequence identifiers are missing from pg 20, lines 10-11 and pg 27, lines 15-16, 21 and 25-26 of the specification, and from either the legend or Brief Description of Figures 1 and 8,.

Full compliance with the sequence rules is required in response to this Office action. A complete response to this Office action must include both compliance with the sequence rules and a response to the issues set forth below. Failure to fully comply with both of these requirements in the time period set forth in this Office action will be held to be non-responsive.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne R. Kubelik, whose telephone number is (703) 308-5059. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson, can be reached at (703) 306-3218. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Customer Service at (703) 308-0198.

Anne R. Kubelik, Ph.D.
March 5, 2003

Anne R. Kubelik